

A GAME WORTH SEEING.

Every Boy Who Loves the Diamond Should Witness the Struggle Between the Redoubtable Newsboy Teams at the Polo Grounds To-Morrow.



AN HOUR IN A FREE-AND-EASY

OR WHAT PASSES BY THAT NAME ON THE WEST END OF CONEY ISLAND.

Free-and-Easy Picture of What an "Evening World" Young Man Saw There—The One-Lunged Piano and the Bald-Headed Man—Specimens of Some of the Jokes—Little Girls Who Seemed Out of Place.

"Step right inside, ladies and gentlemen! Finest show on the island! Performance going on all the time! Seats all free! Step right in now!"

Such was the oft repeated cry which proceeded from the throat of a man who stood in front of one of the numerous "free-and-easy," which abound at the west end of Coney Island, a short distance below Boney's Hotel.

A glance through the open door revealed a large assemblage sitting at numerous tables while waiters flitted to and fro laden with glasses of beer, occasionally calling out, when business did not come up to the requisite standard, "Now gents give your orders. Who wants the water?"

A small stage was fitted up in the rear of the room, through the side door of which an attractive female, clad in remarkably abbreviated attire, was just making her exit, accompanied by applause from beer-glasses pounded on the table.

In response to these marks of approbation the thin female again made her appearance and after a few preliminary chords by the orchestra (a bald-headed man and a one-lunged piano), sang what was intended for a sentimental ballad with a voice that would have sounded better if it had been sand-papery.

Towards the conclusion of the song a partially intoxicated individual in the audience flung a noisemaker at the singer, which she picked up smilingly and retired, apparently as happy as a \$5,000-a-night prima donna who had just received a \$50 bouquet.

A short-haired, bull-necked young man, with a suggestively protruding under jaw, then pounded a heavy cane on the stage and shouted, "Order, please, sir. Blank New York's favorite baritone singer, will now appear, after which we will have a song from Miss Dash."

Mr. Blank soon made his appearance and sang. The quality of his voice certainly fitted him for a better position, for there are many singers on the stage to-day receiving good salaries whose voices cannot compare with that possessed by this inmate of a Coney Island "free-and-easy." A certain dissipated look about his face, however, told plainly that words that drink was the cause of his downfall.

After three enthusiastic encores he retired and Miss Dash appeared. She was a precocious child of not more than twelve years of skeleton proportions and face thickly covered with paint. She walked around the stage while singing, making faces and gestures at her companions in the wings.

Nine chairs were then arranged in a semi-circle on the stage, and a procession consisting of six girls, two end men and an interloper marched gravely in and seated themselves.

The orchestra—the bald-headed man before referred to—played a short selection, after which the girls performed a dance, indulged in some antiquated jokes, of which the following is a fair sample:

First End-Man—Mr. . . . if you were in a boat with an orange and a lemon and the boat should upset, which would you save first?

Middle-Man—I'd save the orange.

First End-Man—I wouldn't. I'd save the lemon, because you can get an orange any time, but where can you get a good, kind old lemon?

The wild hilarity which this alleged joke excited had scarcely died away when another young woman arose and, with a voice sharp enough to drill holes in a board, sang a pathetic ballad, of which the following is a fair sample:

Songs were then sung by the male performers, which nobody heard on account of the existing racket and calls for beer.

Two beautiful little girls, not more than twelve or thirteen years old, then took part in a vocal trio. Their pretty faces, which formed a sad contrast to the painted and powdered visages of their companions in the rear, and reminded one of two roses blooming amidst a lot of weeds.

They sang their trio, after which the "company" vacated the stage.

The Evening World reporter took his departure, musing over the inconsistency of fate, which compels two such fair specimens of promising womanhood to be brought up amid such surroundings.

State League of Democratic Clubs. A meeting for the preliminary organization of a New York State League of Democratic Clubs will be held at Bannum's Hotel, Baltimore, on July 4, delegates of New York clubs being there represented.

The meeting will consider the best plan for organizing the club campaign work in this State and the most efficient method of distributing the State League hour, the time most convenient for the average business lover of baseball, there will be a chance for everybody to get there and encourage the boys through a generous attendance and a well-filled cash box.

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